

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Ito, et al. By this amendment, claims 1-10 are cancelled.

Claims 11-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lie et al., in view of Ito, et al. By this amendment, claims 11-14 are cancelled.

Claim 15 was rejected as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. However, the Examiner stated that claim 15 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. By this amendment, claim 15 is so rewritten in independent form.

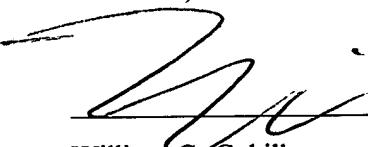
Applicants have reviewed the other references cited but not relied upon (U.S. Patent Nos. 6,605,859 and 6,369,427), and believe them not to be pertinent.

In view of this Amendment, it is believed that the application is in condition for allowance. Applicants request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued.

Charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 03-0088. This document is submitted in **DUPLICATE**.

Respectfully submitted,

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